7: Janlekha X-4,5 (1948-1953)p956 AO7 Central Thai AO7
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243 312 themselves only to the broadcasting method of sowing, while the non-floating varieties are sometimes broadcast and sometimes transplanted. In the broadcasting method, the farmer simply strews the seeds on the plowed-and-harrowed field. In the more or less twice-as-laborious transplanting method the farmer first nurtures seedlings in a special bed and then at the appropriate growth stage transplants the seedlings onto his field in even rows. Both before and after transplanting, the plants require rather careful water control, possibly only by the employment of dikes. It has been observed that the method of planting is not optional with the farmer. Rather, it is governed by topography, expected condition of water supply, and availability of labor. To sum up: Bangchan rice is irrigated, non-floating, and usually transplanted but sometimes broadcast.[1]

243 247 Any attempt to get the farmers to alter the system of planting should be planned with care; otherwise more harm than good might result. There is a general belief among leading agricultural officials that the broadcasting method is undesirable because it allegedly gives only one-half the yield of the transplanting method. The author reserves his judgment on this, for no systematic comparison between these two methods of growing rice has as yet been made. Consideration also must be given to the fact that the transplanting method

1. According to our 1948 survey of 104 rice farms, of a total of 3,528 rai 3,030 rai were transplanted and 498 rai broadcast. Thus, the proportion was roughly six transplanted rai to one broadcast rai.

7: Janlekha X-4,5 (1948-1953)1956 AO7 Central Thai AO7
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243 requires much additional hand labor and reduces the possibil-
242 ities for mechanization to a minimum. On the other hand, the more labor intensive transplanting method would seem to be more suitable to a population pressure area like Thailand if it really gives as relatively higher a yield as it is claimed to give.

243 Farm equipment

351 In Thai agriculture, it is very difficult to separate
[235] the farm from the home. In the chapter on the community it
[244] has already been indicated that the home lot not only is the
[245] living place for the farm family but also provides space for
[226] threshing and for storage of farm equipment, room for chicken raising, land for kitchen garden and for fruit and vegetable growing, and space for fish trapping by the draining method.
243 In other words, all the material components of the farm, except
351 the rice fields, are located or stored on the home lot. Here,
422 items that are uniformly or frequently found include:

A. Household equipment

1. Buildings
2. Furniture
3. Bedding facilities
4. Kitchen accessories
5. Storing facilities
6. Lamps of various sizes
7. Ritual accessories

B. Farm equipment

1. Farm building: equipment and buffalo shed.
2. Implement: plow, harrow, yoke, roller, shovel, spade, hoe, weeding knife, noria, sickle, pitch-fork, rake, broom, winnowing machine, wooden winnowing spitula, basket, mat bin, box bin, home-mill.

7: Janlekha X-4,5 (1948-1953)p956 AO7 Central Thai AO7
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243 The preliminary study in 1948-49 shows that a well
433 equipped farm has a higher crop yield than a poorly equipped farm. Yet the issue here is not one of deliberately choosing the best factor combination among several others. Rather, the lowly capitalized farm is so equipped because of the failure on the part of the operator to command enough capital to meet the required standard factor combination. It is seen, then, that if the operator had enough resources he would follow the established pattern of farm capitalization, thus there appears also to be not much choice either in the selection of the kinds and amount of farm equipment.

243 The operator may decide on whether or not fertilizer
242 is to be used, and this will certainly affect factor combina-
433 tion. It has been observed, however, that Bangchan farmers have never applied any commercial fertilizer to their rice fields of which plant nutrients have been replenished only by the annual inundation and natural deposition of buffalo manure. The reason for the rice farmer's disinclination to fertilization as given by the Thai Ministry of Agriculture was the relatively high price of commercial fertilizers.[3] In fact, progress reports on fertilizer, a study conducted by the ministry, indicate the possibility of profit from proper application of commercial fertilizer on rice fields, but operating on a narrow margin the rice farmer simply could not afford the risk. Uncertainty due to weather and

3. Ministry of Agriculture, Problems in Thai Agriculture, op. cit.